

St Michael's News November 2017

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst,
Berkshire, GU47 8HN www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

Office open: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10.00am–2.00pm; Thursday
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OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH

*Knowing God for ourselves. Growing as individuals and as a church.
Showing God's love in the world.*

New Wine

In August I went to New Wine, it's a gathering of about 5,000 Christians at the Bath and Wells show ground. I went with my middle daughter Jo and her family. We joined a church from Amersham.

For me the overall theme was Christian mission, which fitted well with our vision of being a mission-shaped church. The whole church is of course on a mission of encouraging more people to turn to God by our example.

But of course there is a more proactive way to do mission, which is to go out to where the people are. Testimonies given at New Wine of people who go out, not only to people here but to the whole world, were inspirational, humbling and encouraging all at the same time. They demonstrated the lively vibrancy of the Holy Spirit within the Christian family.

A few weeks ago we spoke about denying self and taking up our cross and following Jesus as the way to find true life. New Wine endorsed that basic philosophy for me last August.

John White



Please pray for those on the prayer board and for those being baptised here this month. Please pray for Alan Butcher, Richard Greenbury and Gwendoline Hedges, whose funerals have taken place.

A compassionate heart

Sometimes those struggling most with life cannot be easily seen. Struggling with mental health problems can blight individuals for years – issues like eating disorders, anxiety and depression can wreck the lives not only of sufferers but of their families as well.

For the past 20 years St Michael's has offered real practical care for those with mental health challenges through Sandhurst Counselling Service. Although now structured as a separate charity to enable a wider range of funders to support it, we as a church remain committed to seeing the service flourish.

The PCC nominates three of the five trustees, and right now we need some new blood! So, if you are willing to serve in such a role then please speak to John Castle, Fay Kidd or Dave Percival who can tell you more about this important work. Even if being a trustee is not your calling, we also need help with practicalities like fund raising etc.

Please think about whether the Lord is calling you to serve those suffering with the hidden blight of mental illness; God's heart overflows with compassion for those who struggle most with life – let his love shape your compassionate heart.

Dave Percival

Hosting with HOST UK 2017-18

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2

How true such advice can be. Hospitality is an equal partnership, the feel-good factor of offering it and the delight in receiving it.

HOST UK is a charity whose mission is to give a welcome to international students in British homes for friendship and cultural exchange. We operate all year round, including Christmas and New Year when being welcomed into a home is vastly preferable to lonely halls of residence.

Hospitality can be offered for one day (daytime only), three days and two nights at the weekend, or at New Year, or four days and three nights during the Christmas festive period. The choice is yours. And remember your offer can be made at any time of the year.

If you would like to know more, please look at our website: www.hostuk.org; or email us on: info@hostuk.org; or telephone HOST UK on: 020 7739 6292.

HELP! We need help on Christmas Eve.

We urgently need some 'meeters and greeters' for the Midnight (11.30 pm) Service on Christmas Eve. Many of the congregation for that service are not regulars and we really do need to be able to 'meet and greet' them warmly. Do you go to that service? Will you volunteer to help? If so, please will you have a word with one of the churchwardens, or with me.
Chris Harris,

NEW!

The new History and Guide booklet is available now. This is a thoroughly revised and expanded edition and is available at the back of church and the parish office for £3.00. This booklet provides a lot of information about our church, both past and present. Emma Hodge

On the Social Side

Around 30 people, young and old, came along to our first Skittles Evening on October 21st. A great time was had by all and £200 raised for WinSpire. Thanks go to Karen and Nick for organising the evening – it could well become another annual event.

Coming soon is our Advent Fair, which we will be running on December 9th, 10th in conjunction with the Tree Festival (which continues until the 12th). We have a really good selection of stalls this year, perhaps the best ever. There will be lots of jams and chutneys to buy thanks to Karen Allen and, as usual, a variety of beautiful craft items including knitted goods, hand-stitched and felt items, tree decorations and jewellery. There will also be tombola, Fairtrade and WinSpire stalls, stamps and cards, and a flower demonstration and workshop run by Jennie Hulbert and Gill Robertson, and refreshments of course. We would welcome donations of cakes for the Fair (please have a word with Ann about that) and also we need lots of help, both with manning stalls and as stewards in church during the Tree Festival. But we do need your support! There will be a 'sign-up' list at the back of the church later this month, or you can have a word with me or Nicki Ray. Thank you in advance. Looking to 2018, we will be holding a Burns Night Supper on January 27th. Full details next month but please do put the date in your diaries. Finally, we are planning to hold our annual Quiz Night in March. Again, there will be more details next month. Chris Harris, Social Committee

toddler time is for everyone under school age and their carers. It's on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 9.00am to 11.00am in the Pastoral Centre (not school holidays). Come and join us for songs, craft activities, drinks and toast, a Bible story and prayers, and an opportunity for play (children) and chat (parents). NB – Dads also welcome!

Parish Communion (9.30 am). During term time, including half-term breaks, there are age-related activities in the Pastoral Centre for children aged three up to school year 5 every week, and for Year 6+ on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. They should come to the Pastoral Centre by 9.25am to be registered, except on the 2nd Sunday of the month, when we all meet in church to take part in the beginning of the service. The group leaders bring the children into the church for the last part of the service every week. Our crèche is not currently running, but arrangements can be made at short notice to care for children under three years. Please ask one of the welcome team.

During the main school holidays children should come into the church with their parents at the beginning of the service, and will be invited to join a leader after a few minutes of the service to watch a Christian story based DVD in the Pastoral Centre. The group leaders bring the children into the church for the last part of the service. For young children staying in the service there are play-bags for them to enjoy – please ask one of the welcome team.

The Family Service is held on the first and third Sundays of the month, including school holidays. It is informal and child friendly, with action songs and an interactive talk, and is a place you really can come to with small children and not worry how they will behave! Refreshments are served in the church from 11.00am; worship begins at 11.15am and lasts about 45 minutes. Come and meet other families and make friends. We need help with refreshments and welcoming, so please email Kirsty Dunlop at kirsty@tcb-arrow.co.uk if you'd like to volunteer!



Weekday Youth Activities.

Impact, for Years 7–9, is on Monday evenings, and a group for years 10–13 meets on Fridays. Contact Liz Percival at dave.percival@btinternet.com for more information.

Kidz Church News

Kidz Church has, until recently been based on activities which followed the readings set in the lectionary. This Autumn we decided, for various reasons, to change the material we use for planning and leading each Kidz Church session. We are now using *Splash* and *Bubbles* from Scripture Union. This material is easier for leaders to use, with more activities to choose from for each session. There are also two exciting additions with *Splash*. The first is that the children get to take home an activity each week, which encourages them to continue their learning through the week. The second is that each month has a theme which is studied and built on each week. This is proving to add an element of learning and understanding which was challenging to bring into the sessions previous to this change.

Each month we will publish the theme for the coming month and the Bible text for each week so that parents and others can keep up with what the children are learning.

The theme for November is 'Story Seeds'.

Nov 5th – The story of the farmer – Matthew 13:1–23

Nov 12th – The wheat and weeds story – Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

Nov 19th – The mustard seed and yeast stories – Matthew 13:31–33

Nov 26th – Jesus blesses the children – Matthew 19:13–15

Karen Allen

100 Club Draw August 2017

1st Prize: Mrs Janet Pilbeam No 37 £20

2nd Prize: Wendy and Alun Grafton No 28 £10

£35 has been passed to church funds.

100 Club Draw September 2017

1st Prize: Mrs Ann Weston No 129 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Jenny Thorn No 31 £10

£35 has been passed to church funds.

Faith in modern Britain

On **Tuesday 14th November at 7.30 pm** (doors open 7.00 pm) Bracknell Forest Faith and Belief Forum will be holding a public meeting on the topic 'What should be the place of faith in modern Britain?', with speakers from different

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Barnabas Fund

‘Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ (Matthew 25:40)

Barnabas Fund (BF) channels money **from** Christians **through** Christians **to** Christians via local churches and organisations, meeting both practical and spiritual needs. It also highlights the plight of Christians oppressed and persecuted for their faith and combats the underlying ideology which drives that persecution. Here are some stories illustrating Barnabas Fund’s work throughout the world.

Kenya

A member of the Barnabas Fund team visiting a food distribution centre in Kenya says: ‘One of the main things that will stay with me was seeing those who have nothing giving thanks. We witnessed people who were about to receive a small ration of food for their families bow their heads and give thanks to God. Saying grace will never be the same again for me.’ The Fund also provides seed, training for farmers and water bore holes.

A Kenyan Christian from a Muslim background declares her willingness to die for the Gospel: ‘You cannot experience this overwhelming love and power within you and keep your mouth shut, no, no way, if it is dying then so be it.’ With these words she had been led to the Lord by a Kenyan church planters supported by BF.

Myanmar

Despite Myanmar taking encouraging steps towards greater democracy, Christians face ‘discriminatory restrictions, including intimidation and violence, which still continue with an ongoing campaign of coerced conversion to Buddhism’. Children are particularly vulnerable. The Christian schools that the Fund supports provide a safe environment for such children to learn free from intimidation.

Bangladesh

Eleven months ago, Bangladeshi police in riot gear marched into the desperately poor community of the Christian Santal people. Firing rubber bullets as they went, they evicted the Christians and then, helped by local

Muslims, set fire to their wooden shack homes. BF is working to provide new homes for these people, who fled with nothing.

Pakistan

When Nadeem first began brick-making ten years ago, he borrowed 42,000 rupees (about £300) from the brick kiln owner. Over the years with interest charges his debt rose to five times that. Debt keeps many such workers 'bonded' to their employers like slaves, unable to leave and seek another job. Thanks to the generosity of BF supporters, Nadeem and his wife are now free!



Nadeem and his wife, as well as many other Christian families, spend their lives working in slave-like conditions.

Barnabas Fund

Barnabas Fund is calling for an International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on 4th November. Will you stand alongside our suffering brothers and sisters through prayer that day and throughout November, calling on the Lord to uphold and strengthen them to remain faithful as they face discrimination and persecution?

To contribute to the work of the Barnabas Fund please go to <https://barnabasfund.org>

Liz Percival

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faiths. How, and even whether, people are allowed to express their faith in places of work or public life, has become a controversial matter. I will be speaking on a Christian perspective. The meeting is at Coopers Hill Youth & Community Centre, Crowthorne Road North, Bracknell RG12 7QS.

John Castle

In association with St Michael's Church WinSpire Project
Calling all children aged 3–10 years
Children's Christmas Workshop

Saturday 18th November 2017

10am–3pm

Includes lunch, crafts, puzzles, quizzes, games and more...

£15 per child

Pastoral Centre, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, GU47 8HN

Tickets available from the church office in the Pastoral Centre

Please note that on this occasion we are not able to accommodate accompanying siblings/parents/carers so perhaps use this opportunity to do some Christmas shopping or enjoy a grown-up lunch!

Any enquiries please call Abby Coleman on 07771 652425

Open Day at St Michael's School

Do you have a child who will be starting school in 2018 or later? The school will be holding an Open Morning on Wednesday 1st November at 9.15. This will give you an opportunity to look round the school and ask questions of pupils, staff and governors. No need to tell us you are coming - just turn up! You will be made very welcome.

WinSpire Project update – Val Goodwin-Higson writes

Thank you for support from Cecilia Singers and St Michael's Belles, who raised over £600. The Skittles Evening raised over £200. An increasing number of people are sponsoring shingles at £10 each to celebrate special family occasions, for instance, birth, baptism, marriage, anniversaries and to commemorate loved ones. The total now received is £52,500, towards a total of £150,000 needed. Thank you.



Forthcoming Events Autumn 2017

Christmas Tree Festival takes place Saturday–Monday, 9–11 December. Many local community organisations are taking part in this event.

Local Business Michelle Travel is supporting WinSpire

Michelle offers a bespoke service to individuals, families and groups. The best price assurance is offered, giving back 110 per cent of the difference in the event of customers finding same travel cheaper. Bookings made through Michelle Travel enables a customer to request a donation of between 10 and 20 per cent (depending on size of booking) to be given to WinSpire.

Please browse the website to see preliminary samples of special deals on weekend breaks, including lovely Christmas Treats for families and groups of friends to enjoy the local attractions of Windsor, London and River Thames.

Contact Michelle Piff on mobile: 07940 506785, facebook: michelletravelexpert, web: michelletravelexpert.inteletravel.uk.

To support or help WinSpire phone 07557 965747 or email winspire.project@gmail.com

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Coffee Rota

5 Nov	Betty Wilson	Jennie Hulbert
12 Nov	Gill Robertson	Jenny Thorn
19 Nov	Steph Martin	Rosemary Dobson
26 Nov	Gillian Davies	Joy Alexander

Newsletter. Please send emails to newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or leave written requests with the church office. The deadline for the December edition is **27th November**.

You will normally be able to view or download a colour copy of the newsletter on the website a few days before it is distributed in church. If you would like to receive that version of the newsletter as an email attachment please contact David Hunt at david.hunt@bcs.org.uk.

House Groups meet each week at these houses:

2nd and 4th Mondays	1.00 pm	Sara Kaufman & Karen Carter	138 College Road 01276 31389
Monday	8.00 pm	Rupert & Sheridan Cremer-Evans	11 Sylvan Ridge 01344 777137
Tuesday	7.30 pm	Elizabeth Ritchie	28 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne 01344 762147
Tuesday	8.00 pm	John & Sue Campbell	2 School Hill 01344 776655
Tuesday	7.45 pm	Linda Lemmon	34 Albion Road 01252 874525
Tuesday	7.30 pm	John & Steph Martin	25 Templar Close 01252 873316

If anyone would like to join a group please speak to Karen Symons (01252 872161) or email karen@2symons.com for more details.

ACTIVITIES AT THE PASTORAL CENTRE

Little Sandhurst Nursery Group. Daily! Contact Karen on 07730 340734 or email: enquiries@LSNG.co.uk for details.

Line Dancing. Every Monday evening in the hall from 7.00 pm, £5.50 includes raffle. Just come along and have fun. Tea and coffee available or bring your own drinks. Ring Sue or Arron on 01344 485097 for information.

Rainbows meet on Tuesdays: 5.00–6.00 pm (5–7 year olds).

3rd Guides meet on Tuesdays: 6.30–8.30 pm (10–14 year olds).

Pilates takes place in the large upper room most days and evenings. For more information ring Carl on 01344 762712.

The Rock and Pop Foundation

Guitar tuition sessions are on Thursdays. For further information please call 0844 879 3305 or visit www.rockandpopfoundation.com.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sun 5th Nov 12.30 pm	Bird in Hand	Parish lunch	Chris Harris 01252 871881
Sat 9th Dec & Sun 10th Dec	Pastoral Centre	Advent Fair	
		Tree Festival	
Sat 27th Jan	Pastoral Centre	Burns Supper	

NOVEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Charity: Barnabas Fund

Sunday 5th November – All Saints Sunday – Theme: All Saints

Revelation 7:9–17 (p1238); Matthew 5:1–12 (p968)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion (Traditional)
- 11.15am Family Service
- 6.30pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Sunday 12th November – 3rd before Advent – Theme: The wise and foolish girls

Matthew 25:1–13 (p994)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion (Informal)
- 10.55 am Remembrance Parade
- 6.30 pm Ecumenical Service at the Methodist Church

Sunday 19th November – 2nd before Advent – Theme: The parable of the talents

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (p1188); Matthew 25:14–30 (p994)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion (Reflective)
- 11.15 am Family Service
- 6.30 pm No service

Saturday 25th November – Wedding

1.00 pm Daniel Bilton and Lucy Berridge

Sunday 26th November – Christ the King – Theme: The sheep and the goats

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 (pp 865, 866); Matthew 25:31–46 (p995)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion (Community feel)
- 12.00 noon Baptism of Freya Bampton
- 6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

St Michael & All Angels, Sandhurst
Christmas Tree Festival
December 2017

Saturday 9th December Noon-5pm

Sunday 10th December 11am-6pm

Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th December 11am-4pm

It is hoped that monies for The WinSpire Project will be raised during the Festival through the sale of programmes and visitor donations.

Funds are needed to repair the beautiful Stained Glass Windows and the Church Spire.

The Christmas Fair will be held in the Pastoral Centre during the weekend with a variety of stalls and refreshments.

Further information call or text 07867 533804





On October 14th, the working party put the churchyard in good order for the winter. The workers are pictured taking a well-earned rest from their labours. The children, however, are *still* working – doubtless creating a masterplan for next year's endeavours.



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If you have any comments, events, news or updates for the website, please email David Hunt on david.hunt@bcs.org.uk.



Go to Sandhurst Pride (www.sandhurstpride.co.uk) if you need information about local services and amenities.